

Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

2 F
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

F.S.
A-267

November 25, 1929

U. S. Department of Agriculture

FOREIGN NEWS ON APPLES

COMMENTS ON THE BRITISH APPLE MARKET

At the Liverpool auction on November 6 large consignments of barreled apples were observed, mostly Virginia York Imperials, which arrived in poor condition and of inferior quality compared to the preceding two weeks' arrivals, according to a report to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics from Mr. F. A. Motz, Department of Agriculture fruit specialist in Europe. The fruit, in many instances, was too large and coarse and did not meet the requirements of these markets. Fruit measuring three inches or more in diameter is not wanted. The shipments for Liverpool consisted of 51,000 barrels, 29,000 of which originated in Virginia, and 27,000 boxes as compared with 25,000 barrels and 31,000 boxes in the corresponding week of 1928. These heavy arrivals of low quality poor condition fruit depressed prices severely.

Similar conditions prevailed at Manchester, November 7, which were reflected in lower quotations. The receipts for the week consisted of 13,000 barrels and 1,000 boxes, as against 5,000 barrels and 3,000 boxes a year ago. American apples, especially boxed apples, have gained considerable reputation in this market. Barreled apples have been arriving in better condition and of improved quality for the last several seasons, but still have considerable room for improvement, according to Manchester dealers.

During the week under survey 29,000 barrels and 41,000 boxes of apples were discharged in Glasgow, consequently the market sagged considerably, barreled apples falling off about one dollar a barrel on the average from the previous week's prices. On the other hand at Edinburgh, which draws upon Liverpool, Glasgow and London for its apple supplies, prices were maintained at higher levels. York Imperials in good condition brought \$6.81 to \$8.52 and boxed Jonathans \$4.14 to \$4.62, or over a dollar a barrel and seventy-cents a box more than was received in Liverpool on Wednesday of the same week.

Slack barrels cause heavy losses

Particular attention is again called to the unnecessary losses to shippers due to "slacks". Slacks are discounted from one to two shillings (24 cents to 48 cents) per barrel and shakes more. Barrels are catalogued as "shakes" when the fruit can be heard rolling around in the barrel on being shaken. In five different lots observed recently by Mr. Motz in Liverpool there were 778 slack barrels in the total of 996. More careful attention to packing is strongly urged. Barrels

should be racked several times on a firm, substantial base, preferably concrete, to insure their arrival overseas in tight condition.

Grimes Golden in North England and Scotland

Grimes Golden apples are becoming more popular in North England and Scotland, according to Mr. Motz. For a number of years buyers and consumers confused Grimes Golden with Tolman Sweet. However, since the quality of the Grimes is becoming more generally known, it is coming more into demand. It was suggested by one broker that the Grimes might eventually take the place of early Newtowns and that, if properly handled, the trade in this variety should be capable of considerable expansion. Grimes shipped early in the fall should by all means be moved under refrigeration from the loading station to the port and across the ocean to destination. The exportation of this variety in limited quantities, until a market is established, is worthy of consideration.

Movement of boxed apples

Boxed apples continue to move in moderate quantity and the quality is generally good. Jonathans from Oregon and Washington are the only variety being shipped in quantity. Supplies of McIntosh from British Columbia are limited, but in demand.

-----0-----

